



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Karen Charles
Chairwoman, North American Numbering Council
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02118

Re: Toll Free: Future Utilization of Numbers (T-FUN) Working Group

Dear Chairwoman Charles:

We appreciate the work the NANC's previous Toll Free Assignment Modernization (TFAM) Working Group did to help further the Commission goal of modernizing toll free number assignments to better promote the equitable and efficient use of toll free numbers, a finite and valuable resource. We are now establishing the new Toll Free: Utilization of Numbers (T-FUN) Working Group to further consider number assignment, auction, and valuation issues for certain toll free resources. As you are aware, the Commission held the 833 Auction on December 16, 2019. Of the 17,638 numbers included, 1,659 numbers received bids, and 15,978 numbers received no bids.¹ The latter remain unassigned and held in unavailable status by Somos, the Toll Free Number Administrator. Over the years, the Commission has also directed Somos to put approximately 30,000 returned 800 numbers in unavailable status as part of its toll free number assignment modernization efforts.²

The Bureau calls on the NANC to assist in assessing the valuation and numbering assignments for these 833 and 800 numbers respectively. Specifically, we direct the NANC, via its T-FUN Working Group, to issue two reports. The first report, addressing the remaining 833 numbers, will be due by **March 6, 2024**. The second report, addressing the unavailable 800 numbers, will be due **June 28, 2024**. We direct the NANC to address the following topics in its reports:

833 Toll Free Numbers

- Review the 833 auction conclusions of the TFAM Working Group in its June 15, 2020 Report³ and the Wireline Competition Bureau's January 15, 2021 Auction Report in light of future numbering auctions; and

¹ *Toll Free Assignment Modernization*, WC Docket No. 17-192, et al., Report, 30 FCC Rcd, 347, 353, para. 16 (2021).

² See Letter from Thomas Goode, General Counsel, ATIS, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 17-192 (filed Apr. 5, 2023), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10405913003721/1>.

³ *Perspectives on the December 2019 Auction of Numbers in the 833 Numbering Plan Area*, Report to the FCC of the NANC Toll Free Assignment Modernization (TFAM) Work Group, June 15, 2020, https://nanc-chair.org/docs/TFAM2020WGFinalReport%206_15_20.pdf

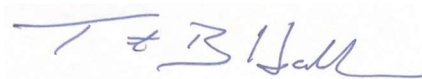
- Consider and recommend potential assignment methods, including whether a first-come, first-served method of number distribution would be preferable to a numbering auction, for the remaining 833 numbers.

800 Toll Free Numbers

- Evaluate the three categories of 800 numbers in terms of potential auctionability:
 - 18,837 former Sprint 800 numbers;
 - 9,378 Beehive 800 numbers (all in the 800-629 exchange, none of which have been put into service); and
 - 9,907 former TTY numbers (all in the 800-855 exchange, none of which have been put into service);
- Consider the valuation of each category of 800 numbers; and
- Consider and recommend potential assignment methods, including competitive bidding, for each category of 800 numbers.

If you have questions about this referral, please contact Christi Shewman, the NANC's Designated Federal Officer, at christi.shewman@fcc.gov. We appreciate the NANC's commitment to continuing the Commission's efforts to consider market-based, equitable methods to assign valuable toll free resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trent Harkrader".

Trent Harkrader
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau